

# Mandatory Conservation News Clips

**June 14, 2007**

[Agency Press Release](#)

[Water Agency Calls For Conservation](#)

By Bob Norberg

The Press Democrat 6/14/07

[Mandatory Water Rationing Ordered For North Bay](#)

(CBS 5) 6/14/07

[Local Counties Ask For Water Conservationmandatory Restrictions Expected](#)

ABC

By Amy Hollyfield 6/14/07

[Sonoma Orders Mandatory Water Rationing](#)

KTVU 6/14/07

**June 15, 2007**

[Water Warning -- The Heat's On](#)

[Sonoma Agency Implements 15% Cut, Other Bay Area Providers Plead For Conservation  
As Warmer Weather Increases Demand](#)

Michael Cabanatuan

San Francisco Chronicle 6/15/07

[Water Warnings For Bay Area This Summer](#)

Kcbs Radio 6/15/07

[Sonoma County Makes Water Conservation Mandatory](#)

Elizabeth Larson

Capital Press 6/15/07

[Water Cuts Mandated](#)

[County Agency Seeks 15% Reduction In Use From 2004 Levels For Summer Months](#)

By Bob Norberg

The Press Democrat 6/15/07

[Mandatory 15 Percent Water Cuts](#)  
[Dry Winter, Salmon Protection Force Rationing](#)

By Sandi Hansen  
Sonoma Index-Tribune

[Russian River water users ordered to divert 15% less](#)

By BEN BROWN  
The Daily Journal

[Water cop?](#)

Editorial  
The Press Democrat

**June 16**

[Cities Say They Can Cut Back On Water](#)

[Responding To Mandatory 15% Reduction, Most Say Efforts Already In Place](#)

By Bob Norberg  
The Press Democrat

**June 17**

[A water Emergency Possible In North Marin](#)

Staff Report 6/17/07  
Marin Independent Journal

[Coping With Conservation](#)

[Gardeners Hunt Drought-Tolerant Plants After Call For Cuts In Water Use](#)

By Bob Norberg  
The Press Democrat

**June 18**

[Fish Gotta Swim And People Gotta Conserve](#)

By Chris Coursey  
The Press Democrat

**June 19**

[Sonoma halfway to water goal](#)

[Council to take up ordinance Wednesday](#)

By David Bolling  
Sonoma INDEX-TRIBUNE

Water agency calls for conservation  
By BOB NORBERG  
THE PRESS DEMOCRAT 6/14/07

The Sonoma County Water Agency on Thursday called for mandatory water conservation measures throughout much of the North Bay, effective July 1.

The conservation measure, which sets a target of 15 percent, was ordered by the state Department of Water Resources at 5 p.m. Wednesday.

County officials said that while 15 percent is not a drop in the bucket, it will not have a drastic effect.

“Fifteen percent is very doable,” said Pam Jeane, the Water Agency’s deputy chief of operations. “Outdoor irrigation is the biggest water use — reduce a 10-minute run time to eight minutes and that’s it right there.”

The order affects cities and water districts supplied by the Water Agency, which takes its water out of the Russian River near the Wohler Bridge near Forestville. Those agencies serve 600,000 residential, business and agriculture customers from Windsor to Sausalito.

The Water Agency also has been directed by the state to work with cities, agencies and agriculture businesses that take water from the Russian River to also conserve water, even though the county has no jurisdiction over them.

The order calls for the conservation to be in place from July 1 to Oct. 28.

The measure will not affect Russian River flows.

By taking less water from the Russian River, it will allow the Water Agency to discharge less from Lake Mendocino, which is already at a low level because of the dry rainy season and less water diverted to it from the Eel River.

That Lake Mendocino water then will be available to discharge into the Russian River during the fall run of the endangered Chinook salmon, protecting that fishery.

You can reach Staff Writer Bob Norberg at [bob.norberg@pressdemocrat.com](mailto:bob.norberg@pressdemocrat.com).

<http://www1.pressdemocrat.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20070614/NEWS/70614013/1033/NEWS01>

Mandatory Water Rationing Ordered For North Bay  
(CBS 5) 6/14/07

SANTA ROSA Sonoma County water officials said Wednesday that the county will begin ordering mandatory water conservation following a state-mandated reduction in the water supply.

State water officials ordered the Sonoma County Water Agency to cut back on its water diversions from the Russian River by 15 percent. It gave the county until July 1 to implement the change.

The county was expected on Thursday to call for an immediate mandatory water conservation program by water customers -- including residents, businesses, and agriculture.

More than 600,000 residents in Sonoma and Marin counties get their drinking water supply from the agency.

Water conservation tips can be found at the agency's Web site at [scwa.ca.gov](http://scwa.ca.gov).

(© MMVII, CBS Broadcasting Inc. All Rights Reserved.)

## Local Counties Ask For Water Conservation Mandatory Restrictions Expected

ABC

By Amy Hollyfield 6/14/07

Jun. 14 - KGO - The first demand for mandatory water conservation is hitting Marin, Sonoma and Mendocino counties this morning. Mandatory cuts will affect everybody - residences, businesses and agriculture. This affects about a million people.

Letting your kids run through the sprinkler on a hot day like today is a no, no. Right now they are asking you to conserve water, about 15-percent of your usage, but starting July 1st they are going to demand it. Employees at the Water District however have already started practicing what they preach.

Chris Murray, Sonoma County Water Agency: "I don't have landscaping at my house to begin with, that's just a policy of my house. We have a shower timer in my house. I'm kind of the water Nazi in my household. Nobody leaves the shower running while they are soaping up and nobody leaves the shower running while they are shaving or brushing their teeth, even if they are shaving their legs."

Sonoma County Water officials say you don't have to go to this extreme, although they of course encourage it, but a few simple steps at your home will help you conserve the required 15-percent of your use. Cut your shower down to five minutes; if you water your lawns for ten minutes, shave it down to eight; if one plant seems to be suffering, let it go  
□ that's how serious they are about this order. Even the multi-billion dollar wine business will be asked to do this. Their grapes are precious to the economy here but so is the water.

Pam Jeane, Sonoma County Water Agency: "Our consultant believes there is a way that they can do it and still get the yield that they would like to have and the quality that they would like to have by implementing some best management practices for irrigation."

If you are tempted to bypass the rules - thinking your shower won't make that big of a difference - consider this:

Chris Murray, Sonoma County Water Agency: "It's really a great opportunity for everybody to participate in protecting a species that I think we all enjoy having in the river. I don't think there is anybody out there who is against having Chinook salmon spawning in the river. I think it's really wonderful that we have this species out there. Every drop of water that people can serve is going to be reflected in storage in Lake Mendocino and that's all going to be made available to salmon in the fall when they are spawning."

The ornamental fountains in downtown Santa Rosa are running and that is recycled water, it circulate, it's not wasted, but some is lost to evaporation. City officials are still trying to decide if they are going to leave it on during the summer. They are also trying to figure out how they are going to enforce this, how they are going to monitor how long their showers are. This is all new to them it's new to everyone. They are still working out details but the bottom line is everyone is going to have to do their part.

# Sonoma Orders Mandatory Water Rationing

**KTVU 6/14/07**

**SANTA ROSA --** Sonoma officials Thursday took concerns over their water woes a step further than their Bay Area neighbors by ordering mandatory -- not voluntary -- rationing for the more than 600,000 people who use their service.

The Sonoma County Water Agency said it had little choice but to install the rationing requirements after the state ordered them to cut back on water diversions from the Russian River by 15 percent to protect salmon.

Sonoma joins Santa Cruz as the only Bay Area counties that have resorted to mandatory rationing.

Santa Cruz officials ordered rationing by their customers in May. The restrictions are light, concerning only residential irrigation, according to Santa Cruz Water Conservation Manager Toby Goddard.

Residents are prohibited from watering their lawns and gardens between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m., seven days a week.

Warnings will be issued to water abusers. For those bold enough to ignore a warning received in person, a \$60 citation could follow. If the citation doesn't change behavior, overzealous water users could have their water supply turned off, according to Goddard.

Professional gardeners, and people employing drip systems and shut-off nozzles are exempt from the ban. Watering by hand was also permitted.

"Keep water on the plants and not running down gutters," Goddard said.

While Sonoma and Santa Cruz water officials were forced to order rationing, other Bay Area agencies were relying on voluntary cutbacks by their utility customers.

The San Francisco Public Utilities Commission reported on Tuesday that water consumption among counties served by the Hetch Hetchy regional water delivery system was down 11 percent.

The announcement came just two months after the commission called for voluntary water conservation efforts among its Bay Area customers following one of the driest winters on record.

Customers in every part of the service area - San Francisco, the South Bay and the East Bay - showed a reduction in demand over a normal year, according to the commission.

The commission serves 2.4 million customers in San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Clara and Alameda counties.

Meanwhile in the South Bay, the massive Santa Clara Valley Water District was urging county residents and businesses to voluntarily cut back their water use by 10 percent.

"Because of a prolonged dry winter and sudden reduction in water supply from the Delta, our reserves are being depleted at a faster rate than anticipated," said Tony Estremera, chairman of the water district board of directors.

The Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta delivers about half the county's water supply.

The Santa Clara Valley Water District manages wholesale drinking water resources and provides stewardship for the county's five watersheds, including 10 reservoirs, more than 800 miles of streams and groundwater basins.

*Copyright 2007 by [KTVU.com](http://KTVU.com) and Bay City News. All rights reserved. This material may not be published, broadcast, rewritten or redistributed*

## WATER WARNING -- THE HEAT'S ON

Sonoma agency implements 15% cut, other Bay Area providers plead for conservation as warmer weather increases demand

Michael Cabanatuan, Chronicle Staff Writer

Friday, June 15, 2007

Turning off faucets, watering lawns in the dark of night and installing low-flow toilets is a way of life in drought-prone California. But after a dry winter and in the midst of the season's first stretch of hot weather, Bay Area residents are being warned to get more serious about conserving water.

For the first time since the early 1990s, many Bay Area water agencies are issuing calls for conservation. On Thursday, the Sonoma County Water Agency, which supplies water to six Bay Area cities and three water districts, became the first water provider in the state to institute mandatory rationing.

Sonoma's declaration of an obligatory 15 percent reduction followed announcements earlier this week by the Santa Clara Valley Water District and the East Bay Municipal Utility District warning of low water supplies. The San Francisco Public Utilities Commission, which provides water to San Francisco as well as parts of San Mateo, Santa Clara and Alameda counties, issued a statement saying water rationing was unlikely this year. However, the commission begged residents to continue -- or step up -- their conservation efforts.

"This is kind of a wake-up call for California," said Toby Goddard, water conservation manager for the city of Santa Cruz, which has banned daytime outdoor watering. "We've had a relatively wet period since 1994, and this came on rather suddenly."

Pleas to cut water usage began in the spring after it became evident the Sierra snowpack that yields much of the state's water was much smaller than usual.

Bay Area water users seem to have responded. The San Francisco PUC, for example, reported its customers used 11 percent less water over the past few months than they did in 2004, also a dry year.

But with the arrival of warmer weather in the past couple of weeks, their resolve seems to have weakened, and water consumption has been rising.

EBMUD in April called on its customers to save 10,000 acre-feet of water through the end of September by not watering during the day and by reducing other discretionary water usage. As of last week, they had saved 3,400 acre-feet. That's enough water to meet the annual needs of nearly 7,000 households.

"But the bad news is then it got hot," said spokesman Charles Hardy, "and demand went up 20 million gallons a day. If it stays hot, it won't be long before all that (savings) gets wiped out."

Tony Winnicker, spokesman for San Francisco's PUC, reported similar results.

"Can you attribute it to the fact that people are intentionally using less? Or can you attribute it to the fact that we've had a cooler-than-usual spring?" he said.

"It looks like we can avoid mandatory cutbacks this year at least. But if people don't continue to conserve, we could be in the situation where we have to face mandatory restrictions next year."

Some of the water worries can't be blamed on the dry winter alone, and they illustrate the fragile nature of the state's water supply.

The Sonoma County Water Agency was directed by the State Water Resources Control Board on Wednesday to reduce its water diversions from the Russian River by 15 percent to protect the fall spawning of salmon. That order spurred Thursday's restrictions, which will be implemented by individual water districts and other entities that get water from the agency.

While flows in the Russian River are down because of the dry winter, Sonoma's situation is complicated by reduced flows into one of its reservoirs, Lake Mendocino, because of changed federal licensing requirements for a Pacific Gas and Electric Co. hydroelectric power plant upstream.

In Santa Clara County, about half of the water supply comes from reservoirs and aquifers and the other half from the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta. Supplies from the delta have been cut because of restrictions at pumping stations to protect the delta smelt, a tiny fish on the brink of extinction.

"To make up for that shortfall, we're relying on our reservoirs and our groundwater basins," said spokeswoman Susan Siravo.

Santa Clara County on Tuesday asked all customers to cut their consumption voluntarily by 10 percent. Mandatory rationing "does not appear to be in our immediate future -- but that could change," she said. "If the situation changes (in the delta), that is something we would look at."

The immediate impact of the Sonoma County cutbacks is not clear. The agency supplies water to cities including Santa Rosa and Petaluma and to districts including the Marin Water District. Each system will have to make its own decisions on how to consume 15 percent less water, said Sonoma Water spokesman Brad Sherwood. The cutback could affect up to 750,000 customers, he said.

---

*Online resources:*

[www.sfwater.org](http://www.sfwater.org)

[www.valleywater.org](http://www.valleywater.org)

[www.sonomacountywater.org](http://www.sonomacountywater.org)

[www.ebmud.com](http://www.ebmud.com)



*Tips for conserving water*

-- *Lawns: Water between 9 p.m. and 6 a.m.*

-- *Yards: Don't water more than three days a week or on consecutive days.*

-- *Laundry: Put full loads into front-loading machines.*

-- *Leaks: Find and repair, particularly in toilets.*

-- *Driveways: Use a broom, not a hose, to clean them.*

-- *Cars: Use a bucket and a hose with shutoff nozzle to wash cars or go to a car wash that recycles and reuses its water.*

-- *Pools: Cover pools and hot tubs when not in use.*

*E-mail Michael Cabanatuan at [mcabanatuan@sfchronicle.com](mailto:mcabanatuan@sfchronicle.com).*

*This article appeared on page A - 1 of the San Francisco Chronicle*

## Water Warnings for Bay Area this Summer

KCBS Radio

SONOMA, Calif. (KCBS) - Tens of thousands of North Bay residents are facing a summer of mandatory water restrictions.

Today, the Sonoma County Water Agency is announcing plans to implement a mandatory water conservation program beginning on July 1st.

Yesterday, the state ordered the water agency to reduce its diversions from the Russian River by 15%.

Water supplies remain tight all over the Bay Area, in fact. In San Jose, big businesses are being asked to use more recycled water.

KCBS' Matt Bigler reports from the Silicon Valley Bureau how that conservation effort works.

At San Jose City Hall, recycled water is already being used, Bigler reports, to flush toilets, thereby saving valuable drinking water.

San Jose Mayor Chuck Reed actually wants more Silicon Valley companies to switch to recycled water.

"What I say to our large water customers out there, that recycled water is available," Reed offered. "Many of them are close to our purple pipes."

Those purple pipes have treated wastewater; they take the treated wastewater from San Jose sewage treatment plants to recycle it for industrial use.

There are roughly 100 miles of purple pipes running under the city.

Another plus of the purple pipes: it diverts sewage water that would otherwise be dumped into the Bay.

However, as of now, only about 10% of the available treated water is in fact being recycled.

Even with all these water woes, there is some good news to pass along. There's word that the water pumps at a plant in Tracy, providing drinking water to Bay Area residents, will soon be turned back on.

The pumps were shut off to protect endangered Delta Smelt that had been getting caught up in machinery at the pumping plant.

But now, the fish have apparently moved away from the area and the plant can resume pumping.

<http://www.kcbs.com/pages/580936.php?contentType=4&contentId=609567>

Sonoma County makes water conservation mandatory  
Elizabeth Larson  
Capital Press Staff Writer

SANTA ROSA - Just a few months after it asked county residents to voluntarily reduce water usage due to concerns about a reduced water supply, the Sonoma County Water Agency on Thursday announced it was implementing a mandatory 15-percent conservation order.

The decision will affect more than 600,000 water users - from agricultural to urban - in Sonoma County and parts of Marin County.

The Sonoma County Water Agency had recently submitted an urgency change petition relating to water diversions into the Russian River to the State Water Resources Control Board.

That petition resulted from less rain and reduced flows into Lake Mendocino, the levels of which began to fall in April about three months early, water agency officials reported.

The lower water levels also caused the agency concern due to potential impacts on the annual fall chinook salmon migration.

Agency engineers projected that water levels in Lake Mendocino would drop to levels lower than 10,000 acre-feet which would be the lowest levels recorded since the lake was first constructed in 1959.

The reduced flow rates allow the Agency to retain additional water storage in Lake Mendocino and improve the likelihood that adequate water supply will be available in the fall to provide for up to 4,500 chinook salmon expected to return to the river to spawn.

The state board issued an order that requires a mandatory 15-percent reduction in water diversions from the Russian River beginning July 1 and lasting until Oct. 28, the agency reported.

The state also is requiring the Sonoma County Water Agency to develop a water conservation plan, work with Russian River water users to reduce use by 15 percent and prepare a detailed work plan to mitigate flow fluctuation caused by height changes at the rubber dam located on the Russian River.

"We will be working with our contractors, along with the business and agricultural community, to immediately implement mandatory water conservation measures," said Pam Jeane, deputy chief engineer of operations.

Conservation tips the agency suggests include reducing irrigation by 20 percent, finding and repairing leaks, irrigating at night and not using water to wash driveways.

Elizabeth Larson is based in Lucerne. Her e-mail address is [el Larson@capitalpress.com](mailto:el Larson@capitalpress.com).

Water cuts mandated  
COUNTY AGENCY SEEKS 15% REDUCTION IN USE FROM 2004 LEVELS FOR SUMMER MONTHS  
By BOB NORBERG  
THE PRESS DEMOCRAT

The Sonoma County Water Agency on Thursday called for mandatory water conservation measures throughout much of the North Bay, effective July 1.

The measure calls for a 15 percent reduction -- from 2004 levels -- in the amount of Russian River water diverted to residential and municipal uses. Compared to 2006 diversions, the reduction is about 19 percent.

The cutback was ordered by the state Water Resources Control Board at 5 p.m. Wednesday and is meant to allow the county Water Agency to save water in Lake Mendocino to be released into the river for the fall chinook salmon run.

"It's the right thing to do," said county Supervisor Tim Smith at a press conference called Thursday to announce the measure. "We have to protect the fish, we have to take those steps . . . and it'll be a multiyear effort."

Water Agency officials said they don't consider the cutback to be drastic, but it will likely have an effect on how people water their lawns and wash their cars, and how much grape growers can irrigate their crops.

"Fifteen percent is very doable," said Pam Jeane, the Water Agency's deputy chief of operations. "Outdoor irrigation is the biggest water use -- reduce a 10-minute run time to eight minutes and that's it right there."

Less irrigation could reduce the yield of Sonoma County's \$430 million grape-growing industry, but growers will do their part to conserve, said Nick Frey, president of the Sonoma County Winegrape Commission.

"I would expect some reduced yields," Frey said. "If people don't have water, they'll have to drop some fruit, and there may be reduced berry size, but it won't have an impact on quality as long as the fruit is mature."

It wasn't immediately apparent how cities and agencies would impose the mandatory conservation measures.

"We just found out about this last night. People haven't had a chance to pull out the ordinances and make plans," Tim Anderson, the Water Agency's director of governmental affairs, said Thursday. "Cities have contingency plans for these sorts of things. They will have to pull them out and see what applies."

The order affects cities and water districts supplied by the Water Agency, which takes its water out of the Russian River near the Wohler Bridge near Forestville.

Those water customers include Santa Rosa, Cotati, Windsor, Rohnert Park, Petaluma, Sonoma, the Valley of the Moon and two Marin County water districts. Together, they serve 600,000 residential, business and agriculture customers from Windsor to Sausalito.

The Water Agency also has been directed by the state to work with other cities, agencies and agriculture businesses that take water from the Russian River to get them to conserve, too, even though the county has no jurisdiction over them.

Those jurisdictions include the cities of Cloverdale and Healdsburg, Geyserville and growers who have wells near the river or take water directly from the river.

The order calls for the conservation measures to be in place from July 1 to Oct. 28. The 15 percent savings is based on 2004 water use, during which 26,161 acre-feet of water were taken out of the Russian River in those four months.

Water Agency officials said 2004 was chosen by the state because it was very similar to 2007 in weather and Lake Mendocino water levels.

In 2006, the water taken out of the river in July, August, September and October was 5,189 acre-feet, which would have required a 19 percent reduction to get to the target.

The suddenness of the order surprised officials, who were scrambling Thursday to understand exactly what it means and how to meet it.

It was not even clear whether the 15 percent was a monthly average or an average for the entire four months.

Although the conservation is mandatory, the Water Agency doesn't have the ability to penalize or levy fines on the water purchasers who don't conserve, and its ability to just turn off the tap is similarly hazy.

"I don't know (if) we can just curtail," Anderson said. "We would have to talk to the lawyers. Our position is we don't want to do that. We will ask the contractors to take the actions necessary."

The Water Agency will report to the state in November on its program, the actions the cities and other agencies took and how much water was saved.

Lake Mendocino, which feeds the Russian River, is at historically low levels and without the conservation measures would be dry by October. With the reductions, Lake Mendocino should still hold 22,000 acre-feet in October, the Water Agency said.

Rohnert Park earlier this year asked its residents to voluntarily conserve water, and has seen a 12 percent savings, said Councilman Jake Mackenzie.

Mackenzie said, however, that he doesn't know how that compares to how much is needed to achieve the 2004 target levels.

Santa Rosa officials said the target can be met, even though they already have instituted strong conservation measures over the past few years.

"We have a very aggressive conservation program now," said Glen Wright, Santa Rosa's deputy director of water resources. "We have been able to reduce our demand by 3,700 acre-feet a year; that is a football stadium filled to the brim with water."

Wright said it may be necessary only for residents to cut irrigation by 20 percent and fix any water leaks.

To enforce conservation, Wright said the city may have workers driving around and looking for such things as bad irrigation practices.

"We have a process, but generally it takes several letters and lots of opportunities for (users) to repair their system, but in the end, we can shut them off," Wright said. "That would be when you see it running off the road from their irrigation system. We have some customers like that. We may change our policy to be more expeditious."

You can reach Staff Writer Bob Norberg at 521-5206 or [bob.norberg@pressdemocrat.com](mailto:bob.norberg@pressdemocrat.com).

Mandatory 15 percent water cuts  
Dry winter, salmon protection force rationing  
By Sandi Hansen  
Sonoma INDEX-TRIBUNE

A mandatory 15 percent reduction in water use in the North Bay, including all of Sonoma County, has been ordered by the State Water Resources Control Board. The City of Sonoma is expected to adopt a mandatory conservation ordinance during its regular council meeting on Wednesday, June 20.

The Sonoma County Water Agency received the notice Wednesday evening and yesterday morning held a press conference announcing that the county will implement a 15 percent reduction in water diversions from the Russian River beginning July 1 and lasting until Oct. 28.

"Mandatory means we are under orders from the state, so we will be sending out our message to cities and other water contractors and the agricultural and business community," said Brad Sherwood, spokesperson for the water agency. "The important message here is that residents will be seeing mandatory conservation starting July 1. Everyone needs to take action now, it's no longer voluntary," he said.

The City of Sonoma already has a model ordinance "on the shelf," to address mandatory water conservation measures, said Public Works Administrator Al Bandur. "The mechanism is in place and we're doing it every year anyway. We're just kicking it up a notch."

Bandur said Sonoma has already reduced consumption 12 percent over the baseline year of 2004 and doesn't think the new restrictions will be difficult to meet. "We're not asking people to do without," he said, "just stop wasting the stuff."

Nevertheless, there will be local fines for people who just can't get with the program. How much they will be, and for what kind of violations, won't be clear until the City Council adopts the emergency ordinance at the upcoming meeting. "We'll go to the council to set up a fee structure for excessive use," Bandur said.

The state order is seeking the 15 percent reduction in diversion in the Russian River, not just from the county water agency but from other water users including the agricultural community, municipalities from North Marin to Lake Mendocino and private well users.

Pam Jeane, the agency's deputy chief engineer of operations, said water conservation is necessary "to ensure water supply for fisheries in the fall and to continue providing high-quality water for more than 600,000 residents in Sonoma and Marin counties, as well as for the many recreational opportunities on the river."

Since April the water agency has urged residents, businesses and farmers to voluntarily reduce water use by 10 to 15 percent, but according to Sherwood, not enough residents have been conserving. "With the hot temperatures upon us (and) water demand, it hasn't been enough." He added that 15 percent reduction for a single household is not that much to ask. "Things like just not watering lawns and plants in the middle of the day can make a difference."

The top 10 water conservation tips the agency is urging residents to use include: reducing irrigation by 20 percent, repairing leaks, watering between midnight and 6 a.m., using a broom - not a hose - to clean driveways and decks, taking the car to a carwash, running dishwasher and clothes washers with full loads only and covering pools and hot tubs to reduce evaporation.

Krishna Kumar, general manager of the Valley of the Moon Water District, echoed Bandur's belief that the rationing goal should be relatively easy to achieve. "It's our belief that implementing the top 10 tips will be sufficient," Kumar said, and that "mandatory rationing should not have to be enforced."

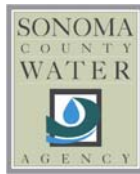
The water shortage is the product of both an extremely dry winter and the need to keep enough supply in storage to allow fishery releases in October that will protect the incoming spawn of 4,500 chinook salmon. Without holding back water in Lake Mendocino, current usage would reduce that reservoir to less than 10,000 acre feet, the lowest level since the reservoir was first filled in 1959.

The state mandate announced this week also requires the water agency to prepare a detailed work plan to submit to the state Water Resources Control Board within 30 days which outlines

measures the county is taking in working with all the water users in its jurisdiction to implement reduction.

Since the county agency does not have policing powers over water contractors, Sherwood said it's going to be up to each city and contractor to enact their own mandatory cutbacks. "We don't have any jurisdiction to levy fines or penalties against water users, only (contractors) can do that because they each have their own programs," he said. "We're going to rely heavily on our contractors to help meet this state order."

Editor David Bolling contributed to this story.



## Press Release

**For Immediate Release**

**Sherwood**

**June 14, 2007**

**Contact: Brad**

**707.521.6204**

### ***Mandatory 15 Percent Water Conservation Ordered***

#### **Agency Seeks Immediate Mandatory Conservation from Cities, Water Districts, Businesses, Agricultural Community**

(Santa Rosa, CA) —The Sonoma County Water Agency (Agency) announced today that the State Water Resources Control Board (State Board) has released a revised Order relating to its Urgency Change Petition for reduced Russian River flows that requires a mandatory fifteen percent reduction in water diversions from the Russian River beginning July 1 to October 28, 2007. The Agency will immediately begin working with its water contractors, cities and water districts in Sonoma and Marin counties, along with the business and agricultural community in developing metrics and a work plan to implement the mandatory conservation requirement.

The revised Order includes the following stipulations:

1. A 15 percent reduction in diversions from the Russian River by the Agency.
2. Development of a water conservation work plan to be approved by the State Board.
3. Agency is to work with all Russian River water users to reduce use by 15 percent, and investigate and reduce water waste and unreasonable use of water.
4. Prepare a detailed work plan to mitigate flow fluctuation caused by height changes at the rubber dam located on the Russian River.

The revised Order does not change the original flow reduction regime as approved by the State Water Board on May 10. Flow reductions in the Russian River have been phased in since the original Order was released. Since early April the Agency has urged residents, businesses and farmers to take voluntary actions to reduce Russian River water use by 10 to 15 percent over the summer months.

“We will be working with our contractors, along with the business and agricultural community, to immediately implement mandatory water conservation measures,” said Pam Jeane, deputy chief engineer of operations. “We must reduce our diversions from the Russian River by fifteen percent in order to ensure water supply for fisheries in the fall and to continue providing high quality water for more than 600,000 residents in Sonoma and Marin counties, as well as for the many recreational opportunities on the river.”

The Agency submitted an urgent request to reduce flow rates to the State Board on April 26th based on projections indicating critically low water levels in Lake Mendocino this fall



at the time of the annual chinook salmon migration. Agency engineers projected that water levels in Lake Mendocino would drop to levels lower than 10,000 acre-feet which would be the lowest levels recorded since the lake was first constructed in 1959. The reduced flow rates allow the Agency to retain additional water storage in Lake Mendocino and improve the likelihood that adequate water supply will be available in the fall to provide for up to 4,500 chinook salmon expected to return to the river to spawn.

The Agency is the local sponsor for the federal water projects at Lake Mendocino and Lake Sonoma and has authority to regulate water supply-related releases from these reservoirs to meet

the needs of more than 600,000 people in Sonoma and Marin counties. A decision by the State Board in 1986 requires the Agency to release sufficient water from the reservoirs to maintain flows rates above designated minimum values at certain points along the Russian River. This week's action by the State Board requires mandatory fifteen percent water conservation and allows for the continued implementation of river flow rates below those normally required under current dry weather conditions.

A list of water conservation tips, programs and rebates are available at [www.sonomacountywater.org](http://www.sonomacountywater.org). The top ten water conservation tips the Agency is urging residents to administer include:

- **Reduce irrigation by 20%.**
- **Find and repair leaks now.**
- **Inspect and tune-up irrigation system monthly.**
- **Irrigate between midnight and 6:00 a.m. to reduce water loss from evaporation and wind.**
- **Use a broom, not a hose, to clean driveway, deck or patio.**
- **Use a bucket and a hose with an automatic shut-off nozzle when you wash the car, or take your car to a carwash that recycles.**
- **Cover pools and hot-tubs to reduce evaporation.**
- **Use front-load washing machines.**
- **Run the dishwasher and clothes washer with full loads only.**
- **Prevent and report water waste.**

###

*Sonoma County Water Agency provides water supply, flood protection and sanitation services for portions of Sonoma and Marin counties. Visit us on the Web at [www.sonomacountywater.org](http://www.sonomacountywater.org).*

Russian River water users ordered to divert 15% less

By BEN BROWN

The Daily Journal

Click photo to enlarge Agencies that take their water from the Russian River will have to... (Ben Brown/The Daily Journal)«1»Water users along the Russian River watershed will need to start practicing "mandatory conservation" following Thursday's announcement by the State Water Resources Control Board that users must reduce the amount of water they take from the river by 15 percent.

The order calls for water diversions along the Russian River to be reduced by 15 percent by July 1 in order to guarantee that there will be water available for fisheries, recreational opportunities and for the 600,000 residents of Sonoma and Marin counties who depend on the Russian River for water.

"In turn, we will be asking our water contractors and agricultural community to practice mandatory conservation," said Brad Sherwood, programs specialist for the Sonoma County Water Agency.

Sherwood said the SCWA will be working with water contractors and the business and agricultural communities in Mendocino, Sonoma and Marin counties to implement conservation measures.

The conservation measures will remain in place through Oct. 28.

It is not clear what form "mandatory conservation" will take along the Russian River. Individual contractors will have to come up with their own plans, Sherwood said.

"We can't enforce mandatory water conservation," he said. "It will be different for each city."

In April, the SCWA asked consumers to begin practicing voluntary conservation after projections predicted that levels in Lake Mendocino might drop as low as 8,000 acre-feet, the lowest since the dam was built.

Through voluntary conservation, the city of Rohnert Park has already reduced its water need by 12 percent.

"The 15 percent is attainable," Sherwood said.

The SCWA will also be working with water consumers in Mendocino County. Sherwood said 50 percent of the water taken from the Russian River is used by people in Mendocino County.

"The state board wants us working with every agency that takes water out of the Russian River," Sherwood said.

Roland Sanford, general manager for the Mendocino County Water Agency, said Mendocino County water users will meet with the SCWA next week.

"To the extent that we can cooperate, we will," Sanford said.

Sanford admitted it might seem strange to some that SCWA will be telling people in Mendocino County how to manage their water.

"They're in an odd position," he said.

A combination of a light rain season and a reduction of flows through the Potter Valley Project is being blamed for the low lake levels. As of Wednesday, Lake Mendocino was at 65,661 acre-feet. The lake has a maximum storage of 122,500 acre-feet.

Ben Brown can be reached at [udjbb@pacific.net](mailto:udjbb@pacific.net).

Cities say they can cut back on water

Responding to mandatory 15% reduction, most say efforts already in place

By BOB NORBERG

THE PRESS DEMOCRAT 6/16/07

Many of the communities that depend on the Russian River for water said they already had taken measures to cut back before the state this week ordered mandatory conservation.

If that's not enough to cut use by 15 percent, most local governments have ordinances ready to require stricter compliance.

"We started conservation in 2006 with a restriction on outdoor use and a building moratorium for half a year," said Vince Long, Cloverdale city manager. "This year we will ask residents to voluntarily comply with that program, which also has alternate days of watering, depending on the area of town where your house is located."

Those measures resulted in a 40 percent water savings, or more than a million gallons a day, Long said.

Cloverdale and other cities are assessing their conservation programs following an order Wednesday by the state Water Resources Control Board to reduce the amount drawn from the Russian River.

Under the order, which is intended to preserve water for the fall salmon run, the Sonoma County Water Agency must reduce its draw from July 1 to Oct. 28 by 15 percent from the amount taken in 2004.

Officials in several cities that buy water from the county agency said Friday they think they can meet that mandate with voluntary measures.

Rohnert Park's voluntary conservation requests already have saved 12 percent, Councilman Jake Mackenzie said.

He said the rest can be made up by using more water from the city's wells. If not, he added, the city has an ordinance mandating a 20 percent cut in use ready to be enacted.

"We feel we are in good shape to meet what the Water Agency is asking," Mackenzie said.

The Valley of the Moon Water District, with 6,800 customers, is doing its part, an official said.

"We have been pushing conservation since April and continue to do that," General Manager Krishna Kumar said, adding that two more measures are under consideration.

"One is to prevent water spilling from landscape onto pavement and prevent watering during daytime," she said. "We will have to send staff and give a number for people to call in if they see that."

But some communities will have to play catch-up.

"It is on our front burner," said Jim Flugm of the Healdsburg water district, which has had a draft conservation ordinance readied for such situations. "We have already been looking at options. In May, we sent out a bill stuffer asking for a 15 percent voluntary reduction."

Lake water low

The state Water Resources Control Board's order is meant to preserve water in Lake Mendocino, which feeds the river.

The lake is at a historic low level because of a dry winter and a reduced diversion of water from the Eel River. If no conservation measures are taken, officials say the lake would be dry in six months.

Lake Mendocino water will be needed in the fall for the seasonal run of chinook salmon, which spawn in the river between Healdsburg and Ukiah.

In response to the state order, the Water Agency imposed a 15 percent mandatory reduction on its customers, which serve 600,000 residential, business and agricultural users from Windsor to Sausalito.

The agency also was ordered to meet with Russian River water users it doesn't directly supply, such as Cloverdale, Healdsburg and Mendocino County, to encourage conservation.

Agency official optimistic

Chris Murray, the Water Agency's principal engineer, said he doesn't think getting cooperation will be a problem.

"I think we will be able to speak the same language and we will all be paddling in the same direction," Murray said.

Murray said voluntary conservation is showing some results. In May, the Water Agency drew 6,226 acre-feet out of the Russian River, while the target under the state mandate would have been 5,292 acre-feet.

"We are making some progress compared to that number, maybe over halfway there," Murray said.

While the Water Agency is under a mandatory order, the state board downplayed its enforcement authority over the agency and other water users.

That is in part because California water law is so convoluted that any enforcement could be tied up in court for years, said Bill Rukeyser, a state board spokesman.

By then, Lake Mendocino could be dry.

Ordering the Sonoma County Water Agency, which had asked for permission to reduce releases from Lake Mendocino, to take the lead on conservation was considered the quickest and most effective response, Rukeyser said.

"We are dealing with a responsible agency, which has in fact its hand on the huge wheels that control the big pipes. They understand the 15 percent cutback is required," Rukeyser said. "If the water is gone, you are looking at dry lake beds and dry pipes."

Ukiah watchful

The city of Ukiah also is watching the level of Lake Mendocino.

"We started a conservation education program a month and a half ago," said Candace Horsley, the city manager. "If we can't reduce to a point where there is water in the lake for August and September, we have an ordinance on water conservation that has a mandatory portion in it."

Santa Rosa has a conservation program in place that may be changed if it doesn't meet the requirements, officials said.

The city of Sonoma already has conservation measures, such as paying people as much as \$400 to take out their lawns, and prohibits wasting water. But city officials will propose making the ordinance mandatory to meet the new requirements, Al Bandur, the public works administrator, said.

"I think it is very doable. It is a matter of tightening the belt and being a little more efficient, a little quicker shower, sweeping the driveway and not hosing it down," Bandur said.

The North Marin Water District in Novato now limits the amount of grass that can be planted, requires new washers to be front-loading and mandates water-efficient plumbing for new construction.

It hopes to meet the target with an increase in the use of recycled wastewater for irrigation, but also is asking the Novato City Council to approve a mandatory conservation ordinance next week, General Manager Chris DeGabriele said.

Petaluma testing controls

Petaluma officials said the city has a conservation program in place that ranks its use as among the lowest per capita in Sonoma County.

They are taking other measures, such as testing new controls on both commercial and residential irrigation systems that measure evaporation rates, and aren't sure what else may have to be done, said Mike Ban, the director of water resources.

"We just got the order yesterday," he said. "We are in early stages of formulating a plan. We will work with our customers on ways to save water. If we need to make adjustments to that program, we will."

In Cotati, the city is turning off drinking fountains, reducing irrigation and making sure it has low-flow toilets.

It also has an emergency conservation ordinance that went into effect last month; it will be updated to be mandatory and ask residents for a 15 percent cutback, said Toni Bertolero, Cotati city engineer.

"We were told by the Water Agency there was a problem," Bertolero said, "so we were responding."

You can reach Staff Writer Bob Norberg at 521-5206 or [bob.norberg@pressdemocrat.com](mailto:bob.norberg@pressdemocrat.com).

<http://www1.pressdemocrat.com/article/20070616/NEWS/706160334&SearchID=73284533729893>

Water emergency possible in North Marin  
Staff Report 6/17/07  
Marin Independent Journal

The North Marin Water District will meet Tuesday to discuss declaring a water shortage emergency.

The move comes in response to the state Water Resources Control Board order that the Sonoma County Water Agency reduce its Russian River diversions by 15 percent. The agency has announced mandatory reductions in water use by its customers effective July 1.

The meeting is at 8 p.m. at 999 Rush Creek Place.

In Central and Southern Marin, the Marin Municipal Water District is joining other Bay Area water suppliers in asking customers to conserve water but is not calling for water rationing or a specific reduction level.

The district gets 75 percent of its water from its own reservoirs on Mount Tamalpais, which are at 79 percent of capacity, below the normal level of 84 percent for this date.

The district imports the remaining 25 percent from the Russian River in Sonoma County through an agreement with the Sonoma County Water Agency.

[http://www.marinij.com/marin/ci\\_6161733](http://www.marinij.com/marin/ci_6161733)



Coping with conservation

Gardeners hunt drought-tolerant plants after call for cuts in water use

By BOB NORBERG

THE PRESS DEMOCRAT

Conservation was on the minds of plant buyers, landscapers and homeowners Saturday as they looked ahead to a state-ordered reduction in water usage in two weeks.

"I don't think this is a bump in the road, I think it's long overdue," said D.K. Cornell, who has cut back drastically how much she waters her Procter Terrace lawn, which is showing small signs of browning. "If we don't do something, there will be nothing left."

The need to conserve "is part of living in California," said Lorraine Bowles of Santa Rosa, who was picking through plants at Prickett's Nursery in Santa Rosa, looking for those most tolerant to drought.

The Sonoma County Water Agency was ordered late Wednesday to reduce its draw from the Russian River by 15 percent, a move taken by the state Water Resources Control Board to preserve water in Lake Mendocino.

That water is necessary for the fall run of chinook salmon, which spawn between Healdsburg and Ukiah. Without conservation, Lake Mendocino could be dry by October, the county Water Agency said.

To comply with the order, the Water Agency is imposing mandatory cutbacks on its water purchasers between July 1 and Oct. 28. It affects 600,000 residential, business and agriculture users from Windsor to Sausalito.

The state has also ordered the Water Agency to work with other major Russian River users, such as Healdsburg and Cloverdale, even though they are not county Water Agency customers.

The order was still sinking in Friday in city halls and water agencies, where officials were trying to figure out how to strengthen the conservation programs already in place.

It was apparent Saturday that residents are taking notice.

"I try to find plants that don't need much water," said Karen Gooler of Santa Rosa, who was at Prickett's. "I don't want to do tons of flowers -- we're trying to find some that don't need a lot of water. We're always checking that."

Nearby was a display of plants with a hand-written "Drought Tolerant" sign in the middle. It held lavender, verbena, Shasta daisies, Berberis shrubs and Cupressus cypress.

In Rincon Valley, Joanne Lantz's yard was being landscaped with a small lawn and plants, all drought-tolerant, and a small decorative pond and creek were using recycled water.

"What she had before was high weeds and sprinklers that just sat out here and ran," said her son, Bill Lantz. "This will give her something nice to look at."

This landscaping comes after already getting a tankless water heater and low-flow plumbing in her home, also in the name of conserving water.

The question, however, is how long the stricter conservation measures will be necessary.

"We didn't have a very wet winter, and you don't know what next year will bring," Lantz said.

You can reach Staff Writer Bob

Norberg at 521-5206 or [bob.norberg@pressdemocrat.com](mailto:bob.norberg@pressdemocrat.com).

<http://www1.pressdemocrat.com/article/20070617/NEWS/706170443&SearchID=73284533629600>

Fish gotta swim and people gotta conserve  
By CHRIS COURSEY  
THE PRESS DEMOCRAT 6/18/07

Two things occurred to me the other day as I listened to Sonoma County water officials talk about an order from the state to reduce the amount of water we use from the Russian River.

First, I realized we've reached the point where we're willing to put nature's needs ahead of people's needs. We're reducing humans' use of river water to ensure there's enough water left for the fish.

And second, I realized the Russian River is no longer a "river" in any natural sense. It's an open pipe over which man exerts much more control than does nature -- except, of course, during the occasional flood.

There's a long list of complex reasons behind the order to cut 15 percent off our summer use of Russian River water, but they all boil down to a single overriding goal: Keep enough water in Lake Mendocino to maintain the river's flow during the fall chinook salmon run.

Keep this in mind over the next few months as you reduce your landscape irrigation and adjust to the funny sounds coming from that front-loading washing machine: This isn't about a water shortage.

How can that be?

Well, the Sonoma County Water Agency has plenty of water in Lake Sonoma behind Warm Springs Dam. In fact, "Lake Sonoma is at a very high level," according to Chris Murray, the agency's principal engineer. But the agency can't deliver as much of that water as it would like to because Dry Creek, which connects Lake Sonoma to the Russian River, must be kept at a relatively low flow to allow fish migration.

See? Again, it's the fish. Those slippery salmonids are driving water policy.

It's an interesting turn of events. Before modern man started manipulating their flow with dams and pumps, the Russian River and Dry Creek were mere trickles during many summers. Salmon and other fish had to spend the hot months hanging out in intermittent pools that formed between the dry spots. Migration certainly wasn't guaranteed.

About 100 years ago, though, a San Francisco industrialist named W.W. Van Arsdale built a dam on the Eel River and used the water to run a new hydroelectric plant in Potter Valley, near the headwaters of the Russian River in Mendocino County.

Once Van Arsdale's water had done its job turning the turbines of the power plant, it spilled into the East Fork of the Russian River, providing a permanent summer flow.

In recent years, though, our neighbors to the north have begun to look askance at all that Eel River water being diverted to the Russian. In 2004, regulators cut the diversion by 15 percent, and this year they upped that to a third. That's good for the Eel, which gets more

water, but it's bad for Lake Mendocino, which without drastic action was forecast to be essentially dry by this fall.

That's why the Water Agency petitioned the state to allow a reduction of the flow of the Russian between Ukiah and Healdsburg. By letting less water out of Lake Mendocino now, more will be available for the chinook in the fall.

And less will be available for us this summer.

Consider it just another chapter in the 100-year saga that has seen the Russian diked, dredged, diverted, channelized, mined, pumped and polluted. Farmers pull irrigation water out of it, city dwellers dump treated wastewater back into it.

At the same time we've done all that, we've also created year-round waterways that are critical spawning runs for chinook salmon and other endangered fish. And so the artificial environment we created to slake our own thirst is being managed with the needs of the fish put above the needs of the managers.

It's delicious irony -- unless people start losing their lawns. Then I predict there'll be hell to pay.

Chris Coursey is at 521-5223 or [chris.coursey@pressdemocrat.com](mailto:chris.coursey@pressdemocrat.com).

<http://www1.pressdemocrat.com/article/20070618/NEWS/706180321&SearchID=73284533217305>

Sonoma halfway to water goal  
Council to take up ordinance Wednesday  
By David Bolling  
Sonoma INDEX-TRIBUNE

The Sonoma City Council is expected to adopt a mandatory water conservation plan on Wednesday that will reduce city water consumption by 15 percent over the baseline year of 2004.

That's the bad news.

The good news is that Sonoma is already halfway there, having reduced water consumption by 7 percent since the baseline period, using voluntary conservation measures. In fact, overall city water consumption has dropped 16 percent since 2002 when a previous city ordinance was passed requesting voluntary conservation.

The mandatory ordinance, which the City Council will consider Wednesday, directs all potable water customers to comply with a list of 10 water-saving measures from July 1 to Oct. 28. Those measures include the following:

- Use water efficiently and reduce less essential uses with the goal of achieving an overall systemwide reduction of 15 percent.
  - Apply irrigation water only during the evening after sunset and in the early morning before sunrise to reduce evaporation losses.
  - Inspect all irrigation systems, repair leaks, and adjust spray heads to provide optimum coverage and eliminate avoidable over-spray.
  - For lawn sprinkler irrigation valves, vary the minutes of run time to accommodate fluctuations in the weather.
  - Reduce minutes of sprinkler run time for each irrigation cycle if water begins to run off to gutters before the irrigation cycle is complete.
  - Become familiar with and strictly follow the City of Sonoma's Water Waste Prohibition Ordinance.
  - Use water conservation incentive, rebate and give-away programs to replace water-guzzling plumbing fixtures and appliances with water-efficient models.
  - Take advantage of free information available from the City of Sonoma on how to use water efficiently, read your water meter, repair ordinary leaks, and make your landscape more water efficient.
  - Use a broom, not a hose, to clean sidewalks, driveways, decks or patios.
  - Use a bucket and a hose with an automatic shutoff nozzle when you wash your car, or take it to a carwash that recycles.
- Additional tips provided by the Valley of the Moon Water District include: Cover pools and hot tubs to reduce evaporation; use front-load washing machines; run dishwashers and clothes washers with full loads only.

Noncompliance with these measures could result in a water waster receiving what the city quaintly calls an "Oops!" tag. The "Oops!" tags will be handed out to residents visibly violating the rules. If the violation is not corrected within 72 hours, the city may disconnect water service and can charge a "Water Waste Fee" of \$70.

Enforcement will not be the responsibility of city police officers. City staff will be watching for signs of wasted water and citizens are encouraged to report any obvious examples they see.

Over the course of the last four years, the city has handed out a total of 70 "Oops!" tags. So far, the second-time offender fee has never been charged.

Sonoma water consumption has been in slow and steady decline since 2002 when consumption hit 2,690 acre feet (an acre foot is 326,000 gallons, about the amount of water that would cover a football field 1 foot deep.) Last year's consumption dropped to 2,318 acre feet, and city officials are confident the mandatory reduction of 15 percent over the 2004 consumption of 2,488 acre feet can be reached without draconian enforcement measures.

<http://www.sonomanews.com/articles/2007/06/18/news/doc46772a8a899b9149145434.txt>

Water cop?  
Editorial  
The Press Democrat

Agency's role as river monitor increased by state order

The state water board has effectively turned the Sonoma County Water Agency into the police chief of the Russian River. Or perhaps "chief negotiator" would be a more accurate title for the agency's new role as defined in an order issued by the water board on Wednesday.

In April, the agency asked the board for permission to reduce flows in the Russian River by 15 percent this summer. The cuts are needed in order to ensure that there is enough water in Lake Mendocino in October for the fall salmon run.

On Wednesday, the board gave the agency the go ahead -- with several stipulations.

One is that the agency impose mandatory 15 percent reductions on the cities and water districts it supplies. This makes sense. With less water in the river, everyone will need to conserve.

But the state board then went further by requiring the agency to describe how it will "obtain the cooperation and participation of . . . water users that are not supplied by the SCWA to reach a water conservation goal of 15 percent by July 1."

Specifically, the board wants the agency to "investigate the waste, unreasonable use, unreasonable method of use, or unreasonable method of diversion of water from the Russian River."

In other words, the board wants the agency to identify and work with farmers and residents who have a straw in (or near the edge of) the river.

This is actually the job of the state board -- whose enforcement division is overwhelmed and underfunded. But turning over the task to the agency (which has no regulatory power) makes sense.

First, it gives the agency a tool to meet with farmers and others and make a case for why users need to work together.

Second, the agency has a better understanding of local needs, history and issues than does the board.

Third, it provides the agency an opening to discuss other options with farmers -- like using recycled water for irrigation.

It's in everyone's best interest to ensure that the limited water available in the river will meet the demands of residents, farmers, the fish and recreational users. The state board's order gives the water agency a tool to help this goal be achieved.